

## REFERRAL FROM CABINET

- a) Provisional Outturn 2013/14 and Carry Forward Requests (Cabinet - 5 June 2014, Minute 12)

The Portfolio Holder for Finance & Resources presented a report which provided the provisional financial outturn figures for 2013/14 and commentary to any significant variances. The report also set out the requests to carry forward unspent budgets into 2014/15. Members noted and considered the relevant minute and recommendations received from the Finance & Resources Advisory Committee which had considered the same report, which had been tabled.

The Head of Finance reported that a provisional favourable variance of £299,000 had been achieved. Renegotiation of costs for shared services with Dartford Borough Council had reduced costs by £90,000. Should the carry forward requests and earmarked reserve be approved then £170,000 could be allocated to the Budget Stabilisation Fund. This represented a variance of 0.33% of the gross service budget.

Noting the comments of the Finance & Resources Advisory Committee, the Chairman explained that the Council had put a lot of effort into getting new Council Tax Support payers used to paying Council Tax and to keep the pressure on them once they were paying. National discussions were ongoing as to the administration of Disabled Facility Grants in two-tier Council areas because the Council held the budget but it was statutorily Kent County Council who determined what works needed to be done. He asked that the appropriate Minister be written to on the matter. The Portfolio Holder for Finance & Resources enquired whether there could be a role in the Council carrying out the assessment role on behalf of the County Council.

***Action: The Housing & Community Safety Advisory Committee to consider the role of the District and County Councils in dealing with Disabled Facility Grants.***

### Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That

- a) the Revenue 'carry forward' requests totalling £129,000 as set out in paragraph 16 of the report be approved;

- b) the Capital carry forward request totalling £66,594, as set out in paragraph 17 of the report be approved; and
- c) Flood Support Earmarked Reserve be established, and the income receipt of £172,000 be transferred to that reserve at the end of March 2014.